

Mr. Speaker, my constituents sent me to Washington with a clear message: Balance the budget, reduce the size and scope of this place.

□ 1410

So those have become my goals, and I found the best way to accomplish these goals is to pass a balanced budget amendment.

So, Mr. Speaker, when the time comes this week, I hope all my colleagues will vote for the people's goals of a balanced budget amendment and return some common sense back to the people's House.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT WOULD BE A STRAITJACKET ON FUTURE GROWTH

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, all 50 States enact two budgets: one, an operating budget which pays for the day-to-day expenses; and, two, a capital improvements budget which pays for things like buildings, roads, airports, land acquisitions. The capital budget is paid for by borrowing, usually through the sale of bonds.

States function as families do. Families budget to pay for living expenses; but things like a home, car, or furniture, families must go into debt. Families assume such long-term debts in order to acquire these assets, the same as the Federal Governments.

The balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution, if passed, would deny the Federal Government the power to borrow for the purpose of acquiring needed physical assets, such as military hardware, a space station, highways, and the like. A balanced budget amendment translates into zero deficit. This proposal is a straitjacket which will cripple the future of our country.

TALK ABOUT ISSUES, NOT JUST BOOK DEALS

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, after sitting here and listening to my Democrat colleagues on the floor last week and this morning, I think I have a good idea of what issues the President will bring up in the State of the Union Address tomorrow night: book deals.

Yes, it seems the only thing on Democrats' minds right now is book deals and other trivial distractions. Forget the important things in the world today, like a balanced budget amendment and passing the unfunded mandates legislation. Book deals are the only thing worth talking about if you are a Democrat.

So, it should be a short State of the Union Address, probably the shortest in history, because if the President acts anything like his fellow Demo-

crats on the Hill, he will not talk about the real issues, he too will try his hardest to change the subject and talk about book deals. I hope he talks about issues because that is what the American people want him to talk about.

THE 22D ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VERSUS WADE

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary of the landmark Roe versus Wade decision I want to express my disgust at the recent outbreaks of violence at our Nation's family planning clinics. Roe versus Wade affirmed that the women in this country have a right to reproductive choice. This right to choose, like every other constitutional rights, must be vigilantly guarded regardless of one's individual beliefs.

The outbreaks of violence we have seen recently at family planning facilities are chilling reminders of the violence we saw surrounding polling places in the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's, as African-Americans attempted to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

We must not allow any constitutional right to be abridged through campaigns of violent intimidation.

REPUBLICANS REMAIN COMMITTED TO CHANGING CONGRESS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend President Clinton said the Democrats and Republicans should be committed to tackling problems larger than our partisan squabbles. I agree. The new Congress should be committed to balancing the budget, ending crime, and reforming Government.

But the sad fact is the rhetoric on that side of the aisle and the actions that follow rarely line up. While Democrats may talk about putting aside partisanship, they seem obsessed by ghost historians, book deals and personal attacks.

Despite this partisan maneuvering, Republicans remain committed to the promises we made to the American people. We will stop forcing the States to pay for policies we implement and we will transform the culture of Washington by passing the balanced budget amendment.

It should be quite obvious to all that Republicans want to change this Congress and our friends on the other side of the aisle just wanted to change the subject.

UNFUNDED MANDATES AND THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this morning I read a letter from Delilah Gonzales, a seventh-grader from New Mexico, asking me to protect her from water contamination. Can we assure Delilah that this legislation we are passing on unfunded mandates will protect her and many other children from water contamination?

In the haste to meet political deadlines, we must not take away safeguards to public health and environmental safety for all Americans.

Although like many I support cutting redtape and bureaucracies in State and local governments, I believe it must be done without harm to children and their families.

I do not want the American people to be faced with pollution in the air and disease-bearing organisms in public water systems because of legislation that was hastily passed in the Congress.

We have to protect the people, and Congress must make sure that they are safe in their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, my constituent, Delilah Gonzales, wants clean water to drink and clear streams in which to fish. Nothing we do in this body should be at the expense of her health.

The letter referred to follows:

JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL,
Albuquerque, NM, December 11, 1994.
Congressman RICHARDSON,
Washington, DC.

MR. RICHARDSON: My 7th grade class is studying water use, over-use and contamination. We would like to know what things you do in your personal life to help conserve and protect our nation's water supply.

Please send us a short note telling us what you do to save water.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DELILAH GONZALES.

LET'S HELP OUT OUR STATES

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today the House continues debate on H.R. 5, a bill which will provide for the examination of past and future unfunded mandates and regulations, imposed on State and local governments, as well as the private sector.

This bill has the potential to be one of the greatest legislative relief bills for our State and local governments in recent memory. H.R. 5's mandate commission will review and make recommendations on modifying, terminating, or suspending current unfunded mandates.

The focal point of this issue is not how well-intentioned or constructive these unfunded mandates are—the real issue here is paying for these constructive ideas. It is a matter of fiscal responsibility and control.